



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

Administrative Offices: 510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>

September 16, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

3-P September 16, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS, AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT, TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY FOR A GRANT TO THE MOUNTAINS RESTORATION TRUST FOR THE COLD CREEK PRESERVE - OLD TOPANGA CONNECTION ACQUISITION PROJECT
(THIRD DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommendations will allocate a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,215,000 Third Supervisorial District Specified Excess Funds to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant to the Mountains Restoration Trust for acquisition of wildlife habitat land in Topanga Canyon.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Cold Creek Preserve - Old Topanga Connection Acquisition Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.
2. Allocate a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,215,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant to the Mountains Restoration Trust for the proposed Cold Creek Preserve - Old Topanga Connection Acquisition Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant, a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,215,000, for the proposed Cold Creek Preserve - Old Topanga Connection Acquisition

Project, after the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy assigns its right to apply to the Mountains Restoration Trust and when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to the procedures in the Procedural Guide for the Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,215,000 in Specified Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) for a grant to the Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) for the proposed Cold Creek Preserve - Old Topanga Connection Acquisition Project (Project).

The proposed Project consists of the acquisition of approximately 81 acres of wildlife habitat land, known as the Sisson Property, located in Topanga Canyon. The estimated total project cost is \$1,215,000, and is fully funded by the recommended Specified Excess Funds.

SMMC, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for wildlife land acquisition projects under the 1996 Proposition, will assign its right to apply for the funds to MRT.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant after SMMC assigns its right to apply for the funds to MRT and when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreements to follow California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the projects, if applicable, and to administer the grants pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by acquiring additional wildlife habitat land in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of \$1,215,000, is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 have encumbered all such funds before they may receive grants of Excess Funds. SMMC and MRT each meet this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended acquisitions will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third

Supervisory District for specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award grants to the various grantees when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide, for governing the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with the CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The SMMC is the lead agency for the proposed Project

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15313 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 13 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed Project consists of acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grants have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed Project will enhance the environment through the preservation of open space and wildlife habitat in the Third Supervisory District. It will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this Board letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

9/16/2014

Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney".

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WO:mh

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Office